

PPTG
Innovations Committee
12.16.04

New Products Process

Guest Speaker: Don Fogle, New Products Coordinator

Don Fogle gave the committee a review of the current process, which was created via a Deputy Directive in 1995. The group's goal is to provide a uniform and consistent review of products. New Products does not consider new processes or methods for existing products. New products that are brought to the group must be fully developed and marketable. Once a new product is brought to the New Products group, it is reviewed by a multidiscipline team for a needs assessment. Note that the New Products process is not staffed and Don relies on laboratory staff. The result of the assessment is communicated with the submitter.

If the result is positive the submitter can then move to getting an evaluation of their product. Don will assign someone within Caltrans to complete an evaluation. They will look at other States uses and check the national database on new products (NTPET). It is helpful if the submitter provide any test results or specifications from other states or municipalities. Typically at least 3 brand name alternatives must be listed in specification (needs to be verified) if brand names are used. It is possible to specify a specific brand if the FHWA publishes a public interest finding.

The goal of the New Products process is to get products on an approved list complete with specifications and competition. Don agreed he would have full cooperation and communication with the innovations committee and Shakir Shatnawi on pavement preservation products.

Construction – Evaluation Process

Guest Speaker: Jack Ezekiel, Construction Evaluation process

Jack Ezekiel spoke to the group about the construction – evaluation process. The manual and application are currently being updated and will be available on the web. Jack provided copies of the 1988 manual. This process evaluates products, techniques, and methods for CAPM, reconstruction and new construction. Jack is working with Jason Dietz of the FHWA in developing the new application.

Draft Innovations Process

The group reviewed the draft innovation process as developed in the previous innovations meeting. The group expanded the process and will look to the C-E application as a model.

Steve Escobar put together a list of documentation requirements for the innovations process which the group reviewed and will expanded upon.

The next innovations committee meeting will be January 12 from 9:30am - 3pm at the Caltrans office on the corner of 11th and R St in Sacramento.

Action Items

The innovations committee needs verification on how to handle patented products and processes.